

USAID HIV/AIDS E-Newsletter

March 14, 2003

This newsletter provides regular updates on the U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of HIV/AIDS and partner activities to prevent and mitigate HIV/AIDS across the developing world. We encourage you to circulate this publication to colleagues.

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NEWS

USAID and Family Health International Launch Antiretroviral Program in Rwanda

Four HIV-positive patients at the Biryogo Medical and Social Center in Rwanda on February 27, 2003, became the first to receive antiretroviral therapy under a new effort sponsored jointly by USAID and Family Health International. To learn more about this antiretroviral therapy program, which will also include training for Rwandan physicians in HIV clinical management and antiretroviral therapy, go to: <http://www.fhi.org/en/cntr/africa/rwanda/rwandaart.html>.

USAID Awards \$50 Million to Global Consortium to Respond to HIV/AIDS

USAID recently funded a coalition of organizations, led by CARE, an international humanitarian organization, to form a worldwide alliance with communities to provide care and support to people living with HIV/AIDS and their families, and to reduce stigma and discrimination. The five-member consortium will receive up to \$50 million from USAID, under the "Communities Responding to the HIV/AIDS Epidemic" (CORE) Initiative, to support work in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia, and Europe and Eurasia during the next five years. <http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2003/pr030313.html>.

Radio Shows Get Youth Talking about HIV/AIDS in Namibia and Ethiopia

With about one-half of all new adult HIV/AIDS infections occurring among young people, a new radio program is encouraging young Namibians to let their voices be heard in the fight against HIV/AIDS. "The Suzie and Shafa Show," developed by Namibian youth to address HIV/AIDS and other health issues in the capital city, is supported by USAID, in partnership with University of Namibia, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Center for Communication Programs (CCP), and the Media and Technology Studies of the Ministry of Basic Education, Sports and Culture.

In Ethiopia, "Journey of Life," a 26-week radio soap opera inspired more than 95 percent of its young urban listeners to protect themselves against HIV/AIDS, according to researchers at CCP. Ethiopian scriptwriters and production staff developed the soap opera for urban youth aged 15 to 30. With support from USAID, CCP provided technical assistance to the National Office of Population in Ethiopia in developing the radio series. Find out more about these two radio programs at: <http://www.jhuccp.org/>.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

USAID Gender Working Group Calls for Conference Abstracts

The Interagency Gender Working Group of USAID is seeking abstracts for its upcoming conference, "Reaching Men to Improve Reproductive and Sexual Health for All." The meeting will take place, September 15-18, 2003, near Washington Dulles Airport in Virginia. Abstracts must be received by March 17, 2003. Submission forms and guidelines can be downloaded at: <http://www.rho.org/html/menrh.htm>.

IMPACT Project Implements VCT Integration Program in Ethiopia

Family Health International's IMPACT project in Ethiopia, with USAID support, has assisted the Addis Ababa Health Bureau to integrate voluntary counseling and HIV testing (VCT) into the standard package of services in all public health centers in Addis Ababa. Besides providing technical assistance for the design and implementation of the VCT integration program, the IMPACT project is also building the capacity of Addis Ababa Health Bureau to monitor and evaluate the quality of both public and private sector VCT. For further information, visit: <http://www.fhi.org/en/cntr/africa/ethiopia/ethiopiasub.html>.

International AIDS Economic Network Hosts Global Dialogue Series

The International AIDS Economic Network (IAEN) introduced a new program in 2003 called the "Global Dialogue Series." Every other month, the program will talk with an official from the leading policymaking organizations (e.g., Global Fund, United Nations, World Health Organization, World Bank), followed by the opportunity for IAEN members to post follow-up questions and comments. For more information, visit <http://www.iaen.org>.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Global Health Council Participates in International Women's Day Event

On March 19, 2003, from 3–4 p.m., the Global Health Council's Sophia Mukasa Monico will lead an online conversation in celebration of International Women's Day (March 8), as part of Global Women's Voices: Focus on HIV/AIDS. Running from March 5–26, the conversations feature five women activists who are active in the fight against HIV and AIDS. Find out more at: <http://www.feminist.org/global/globalvoices03/>.

International AIDS Economics Network Meets in April 2003

The International AIDS Economics Network will hold its 11th Face-to-Face meeting on April 24–25, 2003, in Washington, DC. The topic for this year's meeting is "Current Issues in the Economics of HIV/AIDS." For more information, see: <http://www.iaen.org/events.php>.

International Candlelight Memorial to be held May 18, 2003

Thousands of individuals in more than 1,500 communities in 85 countries will participate, on May 18, 2003, in the world's largest and oldest annual grassroots HIV/AIDS event. The Global Health Council's International AIDS Candlelight Memorial is designed to honor the memory of those lost to HIV/AIDS, show support for those living with HIV/AIDS, raise awareness of HIV/AIDS, and mobilize community involvement in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Read more at: <http://www.candlelightmemorial.org/intro.php>.

USAID Official to Speak at Global Health Council Meeting

Dr. E. Anne Peterson, USAID Bureau for Global Health's Assistant Administrator, will be a featured speaker at the Global Health Council's 30th annual conference, "Our Future on Common Ground: Health and the Environment." Set for May 27–30, 2003, in Washington, DC, the conference will examine the roles health care practitioners can play in addressing health disparities borne from and intrinsically related to countries' physical, social, and economic environments. For more information, visit: http://www.globalhealth.org/view_top.php3?id=193.

Johns Hopkins University to Host Training Workshop for Francophones

The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health's Center for Communication (CCP) will hold a training workshop on strategic communication in the fight against HIV and AIDS, October 13–31, 2003, in Baltimore, Maryland. Participants will use available research data and explore the specifics of each situation with the Strategic Communication Planning and Evaluation software program, created by CCP.

For more information and registration details, visit:

<http://www.jhuccp.org/training/Workshop/Relevons.htm>.

PUBLICATIONS

Communication Campaign Shatters Silence about HIV/AIDS

Ghana's "Stop AIDS Love Life" program is the focus of the latest Communication Impact! from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health/Center for Communication Programs. This edition of Communication Impact! describes how the first phase of this HIV/AIDS prevention program led to a nationwide increase in protective behaviors. View this Communication Impact! at:

<http://www.jhuccp.org/pubs/ci/15/15.pdf>.

Research Paper Reveals Dangers of Cross-Generational Relationships

Population Services International has prepared a research brief entitled "Dangerous Liaisons: People in Cross-Generational Relationships Underestimate Risks" for sexually transmitted infections and HIV. The brief is a condensed version of the full working paper on a study that is part of a behavior change communication strategy for young women in Kenya. The paper is available at:

<http://www.psi.org/resources/pubs/rb2.pdf>.

POLICY Project Documents Lessons Learned

The new report, "Learning Through Practice: Integrating HIV/AIDS Into NGO Programs—A Guide," documents POLICY/South Africa's lessons learned for implementing a capacity development and small grants program for NGOs, including faith-based organizations, women's clubs, and youth groups. The report is available at: http://www.policyproject.com/page_whatsNew.cfm?read=33.

Resources for Organizations Supporting Children Affected by AIDS

International HIV/AIDS Alliance has published "Building Blocks: Africa-Wide Briefing Notes," a set of six locally adaptable resources to help communities and local organizations support children orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV and AIDS. The resources can be accessed at:

www.aidsalliance.org/building_blocks.htm.

Booklets Help Inspire Women, Prevent HIV/AIDS

The Centre for Development and Population Activities has published five fact sheets on "Empowering Women, Preventing HIV/AIDS." The fact sheets can be accessed at:

<http://www.cedpa.org/publications/pdf/aidsfactsheets.html>.

Popular HIV Manual Now Available at UNAIDS Web site

The Hesperian Foundation's manual, "HIV, Health and Your Community," a comprehensive, accessible and easy-to-understand guide, is now available at the UNAIDS Web site. To download this resource, visit:

<http://www.unaids.org/whatsnew/newadds/index.html>.

ONLINE RESOURCES

New Communication Tool Advances United Nations Commitment to Reversing Epidemic

The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), in collaboration with UNAIDS, recently introduced a new gender and HIV/AIDS Web portal. The one-stop online resource center provides researchers, policymakers, and practitioners convenient access to cutting-edge information. Visit the gender and HIV/AIDS web portal at: <http://www.GenderandAIDS.org>.

POLICY Project Launches SPECTRUM Version 2

The POLICY Project's Version 2 of SPECTRUM is now available for download. SPECTRUM is a suite of computer models that can be used to project the need for HIV/AIDS and reproductive health services and the consequences of not addressing those needs. To learn more about SPECTRUM and POLICY's other computer models, see: <http://www.policyproject.com/software.cfm>.

Web Site Features Links to Electronic Magazines

The Communications Initiative Web site provides links to a number of online magazines, grouped as follows: General Development · Agriculture · Children · Economic Development · Education · Environment · Family Planning · Gender · Health · HIV/AIDS · Media. These online publications are available at: <http://www.comminit.com/e-zines.html>.

The Synergy Project publishes this newsletter on behalf of USAID'S Office of HIV/AIDS. To subscribe, click on <mailto:listserv@list.s-3.com?Body=SUBSCRIBE%20SUBSCRIBE>. To unsubscribe click on <mailto:listserv@list.s-3.com?Body=UNSUBSCRIBE%20SUBSCRIBE>, or go to www.synergyaids.com/newsletter.asp. For those without Web access, to subscribe or unsubscribe, send an e-mail to: listserv@list.s-3.com with "subscribe subscribe" or "unsubscribe subscribe" in the body of the e-mail.

USAID's Office of HIV/AIDS welcomes newsletter submissions from USAID Missions and partner agencies. Send information to enews@tvtaassociates.com by the 2nd of the month.